

Frank

What Goes On!

Freundenberg

THOUSANDS of railway workers are being, or will be, deeply affected by the progressive dieselisation of the Queensland railways. The department has been notifying men that their particular jobs have ended, with the passing of the steam trains.

The Government softens the blow by offering other jobs, all unskilled, to skilled men, rather than dismissing them, and leaves the decision up to the worker.



For many married men the change means uprooting family stakes and transferring home life elsewhere, sometimes hundreds of miles. It also means, for many a man, giving up a trade in which he has served his apprenticeship and his adult life.

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LOCAL Government Minister Harold Richter might be interested in this, which is the way it has been put to me: Young people making local authority work their career, and aiming at town and shire clerkships, can't make the goal without passing set exams. Fair enough; but, unlike other students, they have to pay as much as a regular \$42 a year for textbooks necessary to pass the exams.

These are various Government Acts and regulations bearing on L.A. work, some of which run as high as \$1.40 a copy at the Government Printery. There are nearly 50 of them necessary to the student.

Sometimes, there is in an Act as little as a couple of paragraphs only which are relevant to L.A. work and the student's exam. Still, he has to buy the whole caboose.

It's suggested that Mr Richter could assign an officer to compile and collate the sections of the Acts and regulations bearing on L.A. work, and publish them in consolidated form.

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THE Tramways Union has its Old Boys' Club in full swing, with about 50 members meeting to talk and eat in the Light Street Depot recreation room on the last Sunday of each month. President is Albert Castley and secretary R. B. McKen-

Diesels a threat to thousands

zie, and former Minister for Justice Bill Power (an old trammie himself) is being sought as patron. Bill McCormack tells me that veteran "Stepper" Saunders is, as far as he knows, the only club member who took part in the famed 1912 tramways strike, which led to a general strike, and became a turning-point in Queensland industrial and political history.

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THE State Government, advertising vacancies in the Public Service, sets out salaries not at so much a year (the years-long Service way) or at so much a week (as most other people do), but at so much a fortnight. I'm told it's a mark of the computer age, was recently approved by the Industrial Court at the request of the PS Commissioner, although strongly opposed by professional men (engineers, architects and others), who think there is status in an annual salary.

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BURIED in Melbourne recently was Fred Stevens, one of this State's earliest notable

aviators and communications experts. He partnered Lester Brain in the thrilling adventure which resulted in the finding of lost airmen Hitchcock and Anderson, was the first airmail pilot to New Guinea, a Qantas pilot, early 4QG engineer (before the ABC days), in RAAF Signals, and Superintendent of Civil Aviation Board Communications. His first exercises in signals were with flags, from his father's lighthouse at Wilson's Promontory, where he spent much of his childhood. He had a personal investiture by the Queen of the MBE, in 1953.

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PINE River Shire Council this week decided to buy its first tranquilliser gun — a modern gadget for quietening obstreperous beasts, helping to get them expeditiously handled, paddocked and impounded. Councillor John Scott, known all over Australia as a breeder of Ayrshires, favored the idea, put up by Deputy-Chairman Rody Cruice. It will cost the Council \$240.